4th December 1954]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that we have been securing all necessary information in order to enable the Government to take up a definite stand whenever we have to advise the Central Government."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Have the Government received any representation regarding the export of tapioca which is produced in large quantities in Malabar and which is fetching only a very low price now? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not remember to have seen any representation. So I would like to have notice."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister will represent to the Central Government that whenever a producer wishes to export these commodities to foreign countries, he may be permitted to do it himself so that the entire profit may go to him instead of to the middlemen? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The selection of personnel is for the Government of India to decide."

Deaths due to sewer gas in the City.

* 33 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of people who died during the last 2½ years as a result of getting into the *sewage* pipes in the City?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Three, Sir."

Deaths due to sewer gas in the City.

* 34 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one, Sanyasi, a mill worker, lost his life by asphyxia while attempting to rescue three municipal workers on May 30th, 1954, from being trapped in a cesspool at Madras; and

(*b*) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such dangers?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Corporation of Madras is bound to take the necessary measures to prevent such deaths and it has taken the following measures :

Sewers are provided with ventilating shafts at intervals for the escape of sewer gas. Before the thozhilalies are allowed to get into the manholes for cleaning or for removal of obstructions in the underground sewers, the doors of the manholes are first opened and sufficient time is allowed for the gas to escape from the manholes. The manholes on either side of the sewer length under operation are kept open during the period to facilitate the escape of poisonous gas freely. In addition, the thozhilalies are provided with

[4th December 1954

a rope to be slung round the body when they get into the manholes so that they may be lifted up immediately, if they are affected with sewer gas."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Corporation Engineer has submitted a report to the Government recommending the purchase of some spring-like machines to be dipped into the sewage pipes? May I know whether those machines have been purchased?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister has given a list of precautionary measures that the Corporation authorities are supposed to be taking in these cases. May I know who supervises those precautionary measures especially as most of those people who get into the sewers are those who are employed under the contractors?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I suppose the concerned sanitary engineering staff supervise these things, Sir."

11-20 a.m. SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, have the Government taken specific measures to modify the rules stating that such operations must be supervised by a responsible official in view of the fact that lives of individuals are involved in these operations?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I shall make enquiries about the matter."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will it not be simpler and safer to provide people with gas masks rather than taking all these kinds of precautions and have the Government compensated those persons who have died?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, it is a matter for the Sanitary authorities to decide."

SRI S. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI :—" I want to know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the Corporation Commissioner is defending the Corporation's contractor in the Workmen's Compensation Court against the claim of the workers' families for compensation for the loss they incurred in the death of their relatives."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, that matter is *sub judice*. Anything said here now may prejudice the enquiry pending before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, we are not asking the Hon. Minister for an answer that he would go into the merits of the question. What we are asking is whether it is competent for the Commissioner of the Corporation who is not the direct employer in this case to enter the case in defence?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information about the matter, Sir."

4th December 1954]

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, have the Government any special scheme for payment of compensation or grant to people who are engaged in avocations in which danger to life is more than in the majority of other avocations? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no other special scheme, Sir, except the Workmen's Compensation Act, for the payment of compensation."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister in his reply said that the manholes were allowed to be kept open on either side for the gas to escape. Will it not be harmful, if the gas is allowed to escape in the open, to the passers by? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member may suggest other methods."

Fire accident at Lalagunta, Washermanpet, Madras.

* 35 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of huts destroyed by fire accident in April 1954 at Lalagunta, Washermanpet, Madras;

(*b*) whether the Hon. the Chief Minister inspected the scene of the fire accident;

(*c*) the amount of the loss on account of the fire accident; and

(*d*) the amount of discretionary grant given by the State Government to each family of the victims of the fire accident?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 46.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) Rs. 12,000.

" (*d*) Rs. 30 per family."

Sri A. RATNAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, வண்ணாரப்பேட்டையிலுள்ள லாலாகுண்டா பிரதேசத்தில் தீப்பிடித்து எரிந்து போன இடத்தை நமது முதல் மந்திரி அவர்கள் நேரில் சென்று பார்வையிட்டார் என்ற ஒரு காரணத்திற்காகத்தான் அரசாங்கத்திடமிருந்தும், கார்ப்பரேஷனிடமிருந்தும் பணம் வசூல் செய்து மறுபடியும் அந்தக் குடிசைகளைக் கட்டி கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதே நேரத்தில் அதற்கு வெகு அருகாமையிலேயே உள்ள போஜராஜன் நகரில் பணிரெண்டு குடிசைகளுக்குமேல் தீயுக்கு இரையாகி அதில் வசித்து வந்த மக்கள் இன்றைக்கு வசிக்க குடிசையின்றி வெய்யிலிலும், பனியிலும் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். பாழாகிப் போன குடிசைகளின் இடம் இன்னமும் அப்படியே இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்கு தங்கள் குடிசைகளைக் கட்டிக்கொள்ள எந்தவிதமான உதவியும் செய்யப்படவில்லை. இந்த போஜராஜ நகருக்கு நமது முதல் மந்திரி அவர்கள் என் விஜயம் செய்யவில்லையென்றும் நான் கேட்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have no information on the subject, Sir."